

American Indian/Alaska Native Advisory Committee

NOVEMBER 3, 2020

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Oregon Department of Education

Minutes

Present: Chair Tamara Henderson, Vice-chair Brandon Culbertson, Vanessa Bahe, Bridget Wheeler, Julie Bettles, Robin Butterfield, Josh Davies, Christopher Mansayan, Modesta Minthorn, Sonya Moody-Jurado, Angie Morrill, Leilani Sabzalian, Mandy Smoker-Broadus, Valerie Switzler

Excused: Sandy Henry, Will Hess, Mercedes Jones, Kelly LaChance, Scott Minthorn, Beverly Youngman

Visitors: Rudyanne Rivera-Lindstrom, Lindsay Pearson, Valeria Atanacio, Anthony Rosilez

Staff: April Campbell, Debbie Green, Mona Halcomb, Trinity Minahan, Deleana OtherBull

1.0 Call to Order, Opening Remarks

1.1 Introductions, attendance

Chair Tamara Henderson opened the meeting, followed by an opening blessing from Vice-chair Brandon Culbertson. She requested committee members and Office of Indian Education (OIE) staff and our partners provide brief introductions for roll call. A quorum was present.

2.0 Review of September 1, 2020, Minutes

No edits or suggestions were made to the minutes. Committee members have one week to submit any edits before they will be finalized and posted on our website.

3.0 Office of Indian Education Updates

3.1 Summary of Student Engagement Webinar on Distance Learning

Ramona Halcomb provided an update on the recent webinar with students throughout the state on their experiences with distance learning. Students shared that one of their biggest challenges was the mental health aspect of learning from home. Other concerns were the need to help younger siblings with their school work, receiving more work assigned from teachers, and missing out on extra-curricular and senior year experiences. The students expressed their concerns for their families and teachers and such empathy for all the difficulties of distance learning for everyone. Ramona additionally shared that Legislative Concept (LC) 609 is still moving forward in the legislature (the right for students to wear Regalia at graduation).

Trinity Minahan provided an update on SB 13. SB 13 Inservice and Module 1 virtual training for teacher professional development was released on October 9. The Module 2 course was released yesterday. The OIE sent out a notice to save the date on December 9, 2020, for an SB 13 online professional development using Zoom. This training will be interactive and provide an opportunity for educators to learn more about how to integrate and utilize the SB 13 lesson plans into their other curriculum. More information will be coming to the SB 13 listserv soon. A request was made by OIE staff for committee members to let them know of any educators who are currently utilizing and integrating these lesson plans virtually now.

There is a new position for the Director of the Office of Indian Education currently posted for internal candidates only. After this position is hired, a fourth position is anticipated through the Student Success Act to further expand the OIE office.

4.0 Agency/Partner Agency Updates & Highlights - Discussion

The committee shared ideas for what they would like to see shared and discussed for this recurring agenda item. Along with hearing updates from our education partners (Higher Education Coordinating Commission, Educator Advancement Council, Teacher Standards and Practices Commission, Early Learning Department, and the Youth Development Division), they would also like to share best practice topics. Specifically planning topics related to Native Heritage month in the spring, hiring practices for native teachers, and information about the State Indian Education Plan.

5.0 RFA (Request for Application) Updates

5.1 Deadline extension

5.2 Update on applications

5.3 Grants for Supporting Indigenous Languages Update

Deleana OtherBull from the OIE reviewed the RFA process and updates with committee members. The initial RFA deadline was mid-October but due to only receiving 10 applications, the deadline was extended to November 6. Additionally, 29 entities or organizations downloaded the application. We are exploring why out of those downloads, we only received 10 applications. Deleana has been answering questions and soliciting feedback on why the RFA grant programs have not been widely applied for. Some of the feedback she received included organizations not having enough staff or time to apply, the quick turnaround dates, and the funding required to spend by June 30, 2021. She has been working closely with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) procurement to look at awarding direct non-competitive grants. Additionally, the initial indirect rate of 5% will be raised to 10% after the State Board of Education approves this in November. This will require applicants to complete another budget after the indirect rate changes. We would like to encourage more organizations or entities to apply for funding. Discussion from the committee included the challenge of high indirect (some up to 50%) needs from applying tribal governments and non-profits and does not feel equitable for those who are unable to apply due to indirect percentages. Staff will follow-up with Procurement to discuss further. Committee members can submit comments on rules.

Supporting Indigenous language programs will be offered to each of the federally-recognized tribal governments a non-competitive grants, with the amount awarded according to the status of the language program within the Tribe. We encourage tribes to gather student/youth feedback during this virtual learning time to help identify what these grants could be used for. Even if no additional applications are received, there will still be a selection committee review. This committee has already been established.

6.0 AI/ AN Advisory Committee Business

6.1 Approval of Updated AI/ AN Advisory Committee Charter

Committee members were sent proposed Charter changes with the agenda last Friday. Comments and suggestions were made by committee members which will be incorporated into the Charter, including a discussion about term limits and reapplication procedures for the various positions. There were also several suggestions to add student voice to the committee to provide mentorship. We will address this at a future meeting.

7.0 AI/AN OARs & Updated Definition

Committee members were emailed a document with updated equity definitions the ODE Equity workgroup is reviewing. If committee members have any feedback on these definitions, please email them to Deleana OtherBull to forward it to the workgroup. The purpose of the workgroup is to approve consistent language definitions that can be used widely in the language of our Oregon Administrative Rules.

8.0 Community Comment

No public comment was submitted.

9.0 Other Business, Next Meeting Agenda Items

- Charter language updates (reappointments, term limits)
- Youth advisory committee or representation on the AIAN Advisory Committee for mentoring

10.0 Adjourn

The next meeting will be on January 5, 2021

ADA accommodations: Please e-mail Debbie Green / Debbie.green@state.or.us